

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A granulation process for producing a granular material dispersing a fluid in a mass of solid particles, comprising the steps of

a) contacting a gas with a fluid composition comprising i) from 0.001 to 30 weight percent of a surfactant having a weight average molecular weight of up to 30000 and ii) from 99.999 to 70 weight percent of a liquid diluent, based on the total weight of the surfactant i) and the liquid diluent ii), to produce a foam with an overrun of 50 to 10,000 percent, wherein the overrun is defined as:

$$\text{overrun (\%)} = [(\text{volume foam} - \text{volume fluid}) / \text{volume fluid}] \times 1000,$$

measured at 25°C and atmospheric pressure,

~~and~~ b) contacting the produced foam with solid particles of an average size of up to 2500 micrometers in a mixing device, ~~which causes the produced foam to break and foam components to disperse in the mass of solid particles,~~ the weight ratio between the foam and the solid particles being from 1 : 20 to 1 : 0.2, to disperse the surfactant and other foam components in the mass of solid particles and to agglomerate the particles to produce a granular material, and

c) drying the produced granular material,

wherein a therapeutic agent is comprised in the fluid composition or in the mass of solid particles or both,

wherein the liquid diluent is a monofunctional alcohol, a paraffin oil, an animal oil, a vegetable oil or water, and

wherein the amount of other additives in the fluid composition, if present, is up to 25 weight percent, based upon the total weight of the fluid composition.

2. (Currently amended) A granulation process for producing a granular material

~~dispersing a fluid in a mass of solid particles~~ comprising the steps of

a) contacting a gas with a fluid composition comprising i) from 0.001 to 30 weight percent of a surfactant having a weight average molecular weight of up to 9000 and ii) from 99.999 to 70 weight percent of a liquid diluent, based on the total weight of the surfactant i) and the liquid diluent ii), to produce a foam with an overrun of 50 to 10,000 percent, wherein the overrun is defined as

$$\text{overrun (\%)} = [(\text{volume foam} - \text{volume fluid}) / \text{volume fluid}] \times 1000,$$

measured at 25°C and atmospheric pressure,

~~and~~ b) contacting the produced foam with solid particles of an average size of up to 2500 micrometers in a mixing device, ~~which causes the produced foam to break and foam components to disperse in the mass of solid particles,~~ the weight ratio between the foam and the solid particles being from 1 : 20 to 1 : 0.2, to disperse the surfactant and other foam components in the mass of solid particles and to agglomerate the particles to produce a granular material, and

c) drying the produced granular material,

wherein a therapeutic agent is comprised in the fluid composition or in the mass of solid particles or both,

wherein the liquid diluent is a monofunctional alcohol, a paraffin oil, an animal oil, a vegetable oil or water, and

wherein the amount of other additives in the fluid composition, if present, is up to 25 weight percent, based upon the total weight of the fluid composition.

3. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the surfactant is physiologically acceptable.

4. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the fluid composition comprises one or more surfactants selected from the list consisting of benzalkonium chlorides, hexadecyltrimethyl ammonium bromide, glyceryl monooleates, glyceryl monostearates, glyceryl palmitostearates, poloxamers, polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyethylene castor oil derivatives, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyoxyethylene stearates, sorbitan fatty acid esters, and sodium lauryl sulfate.

5. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the fluid composition does not comprise a polymeric compound having a weight average molecular weight of more than 9,000.

6. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the fluid composition comprises i) from 0.01 to 10 weight percent of the surfactant and ii) from 99.99 to 90 weight percent of the liquid diluent ii).

7. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the foam is a water-based air foam.

8.-10 (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 2 wherein the surfactant is physiologically acceptable.

12. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 2 wherein the fluid composition comprises one or more surfactants selected from the list consisting of benzalkonium chlorides, hexadecyltrimethyl ammonium bromide, glyceryl monooleates, glyceryl monostearates,

glyceryl palmitostearates, poloxamers, polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyethylene castor oil derivatives, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyoxyethylene stearates, sorbitan fatty acid esters, and sodium lauryl sulfate.

13. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 2 wherein the fluid composition does not comprise a polymeric compound having a weight average molecular weight of more than 9,000.

14. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 2 wherein the fluid composition comprises i) from 0.01 to 10 weight percent of the surfactant and ii) from 99.99 to 90 weight percent of the liquid diluent ii).

15. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 2 wherein the foam is a water-based air foam.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) The process of Claim 1 wherein the mass of solid particles is a powder of an average particle size of less than 1000 micrometers.

20. (New) The process of Claim 2 wherein the mass of solid particles is a powder of an average particle size of less than 1000 micrometers.